

CONFIDENTIAL

File 229

25X1A CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC SNB Border Guard Battalion in Karlovy Vary 25X1A

25X1X

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A

[REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED] 25X1A

REMARKS

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25X1X

[REDACTED] 25X1B

- 25X1X1. [REDACTED] SNB Border Guard Bn [REDACTED] was located in Karlovy Vary (N 51/P 69) and was subordinate to SNB Unit 9600, which was stationed in Prague XIII-Vrsovice and commanded by Major Duda, (fnu), who, in March 1950, had succeeded Colonel Kovar, (fnu), who had been arrested on charges of espionage. (1)
2. Headquarters and headquarters units of the battalion were located in Karlovy Vary; one company was in As (N 51/P 18) and another company in Jachymov (N 51/X 60). The company in As had [REDACTED] (2)
- 25X1B
3. The battalion was commanded by Senior Lieutenant Vlcek, (fnu), and was organized into the headquarters, including a raiding squad and radio station, and into three companies.
4. The company in As was commanded by Lieutenant Hanis, (fnu). It numbered two officers and about 300 NCOs and was organized into the company headquarters with radio station, one platoon in Mokrin (Massengrub) (N 51/P 18), one in Senbach, one in the forester's house of Podlesi, one in Rossbach (N 51/P 19) and one in Podhradí.
5. The company in As was equipped with an undetermined number of Czech model 48 submachine guns, 12 Czech light machine guns, one model Bronowik armored scout car, one bus, two passenger cars, two trucks, three Jawa motorcycles and two searchlights.
6. In the spring of 1950 mine-laying was started along the border. This work was suspended for some time and resumed in early July 1950. The necessary surveying work was done by SNB personnel. (3)
7. Since 1 April 1950 the SNB units have been reinforced by reliable picked soldiers from army units, with the result that by September 1950 the SNB border guard units were made up of more former army personnel than SNB personnel. (4)

25X1A [REDACTED] Comments.

25X1X(1) [REDACTED]

25X1 (2) Companies in Lazne Kynzvař, Cheb, As, Kraslice, Nejdek and Prisenice belong to SNB Border Guard Bn [REDACTED] in Karlovy Vary. See [REDACTED] The SNB 25X1A

25X1B units in Jachymov belong to the SNB special unit Jerab rather than to the batalion

[REDACTED]

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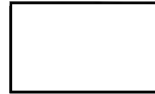
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mentioned above.

- (3) This is the first report that mines were planted along the western border of Czechoslovakia. Previous rumors to this effect have not been verified. It is probable that mines were laid in the As area, since a previous report on the storing of mines in Novazdar and Medesa in November 1949 quoted an engineer officer as saying that these mines were to be planted in the border area. See [redacted]
- (4) It has been known for a long time that SDB units were reinforced by army personnel. It is believed, however, that the army personnel were only detached to the SDB for temporary assignment to border duty.

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